

## Message Text

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72

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-02

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 OPIC-06 FEA-01

COME-00 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /072 W

----- 058419

O 072217Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8657

UNCLAS CARACAS 4790

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EINV ENRG VE

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE EFFECT OF GULF OIL SHUTDOWN

REF: CARACAS 4749

1. IF THE GOV WERE TO SUSPEND MENE GRANDE OPERATIONS IN VENEZUELA, THE EFFECT ON TOTAL VENEZUELAN PRODUCTION WOULD BE GREATER THAN THE 400,000 PLUS B/D WHICH COMPANY PRODUCES FOR OWN ACCOUNT AND THAT OF ITS PARTNERS - INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM AND SHELL.

2. MENE GRANDE FACILITIES AT PUERTO LA CRUZ ARE OUTLET FOR ALL EASTERN VENEZUELAN PRODUCTION. IN 1974 THIS AMOUNTED TO ROUGHLY 20 PER CENT OF TOAL PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS. AT CURRENT LEVELS, EASTERN PRODUCTION IS APPROXIMATELY 500,000 B/D. COMPANIES WHICH EXPORT THROUGH MENE GRANDE FACILITIES ALSO INCLUDE CREOLE, TEXACO (WHICH OWNS 1/3 OF GULF REFINERY AT PUERTO LA CRUZ), CVP, PHILLIPS, AMOCO, MOBIL OIL AND SEVERAL SMALL VENEZUELAN PRODUCERS.

3. OIL INDUSTRY SOURCES DON'T TAKE THE THREAT TO CURTAIL MENE GRANDE PRODUCTION SERIOUSLY. THEY SAY IT WOULD BE TECHNICALLY DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, TO SHUT DOWN PRODUCTION ON SHORT NOTICE. WE ARE NOT QUITE SO SANGUINE. IF GULF FAILS TO RESPOND

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TO THE ULTIMATIUM CAP WILL BE HARD PUT POLITICALLY NOT TO CARRY

OUT HIS THREAT.  
SHLAUDEMAM

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, PRODUCTION DATA  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750160-0971  
**From:** CARACAS  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 75 CARACAS 4749  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17 JUL 2003  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POSSIBLE EFFECT OF GULF OIL SHUTDOWN  
**TAGS:** PFOR, EINV, ENRG, VE, US, GULF OIL CO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006